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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/497,773	02/03/2000	Jerry E. Pierce	22789	7892

9355 7590 09/09/2003

ALLEN, DYER, DOPPELT, MILBRATH & GILCHRIST, PA  
P.O. BOX 3791  
ORLANDO, FL 32802-3791

EXAMINER

CUFF, MICHAEL A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3627

DATE MAILED: 09/09/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

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APPLICATION NO./ CONTROL NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR / PATENT IN REEXAMINATION	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
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EXAMINER
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ART UNIT	PAPER
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10

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**Commissioner for Patents**

The timely amendment filed on 6/24/03 is not fully responsive to the prior Office action because applicant has canceled all claims directed to the elected invention. Claims 16-23 have been deemed, per last office action, to be directed to a non-elected invention. New claims 24-41 are dependent upon independent claims 16, 19 and 23. Note MPEP 819, "Note that the applicant cannot, as a matter of right, file a request for continued examination (RCE) to obtain continued examination on the basis of claims that are independent and distinct from the claims previously claimed and examined (i.e., applicant cannot switch inventions by way of an RCE as a matter of right)." Since the submission appears to be a *bona fide* attempt to provide a complete reply to the prior Office action, applicant is given a shortened statutory period of ONE MONTH or THIRTY DAYS from the mailing date of this letter, whichever is longer, to submit a complete reply. This shortened statutory period supersedes the time period set in the prior Office action.

 9/15/03  
**MICHAEL CUFF**  
**PRIMARY EXAMINER**